Date: 11/9/12

Student Sustainability Committee  
Fresh Press and Sustainable Student Farm Collaboration

Dear Committee:

This letter is to lend my support to the expansion of the collaboration between the Sustainable Student Farm (SSF) and Fresh Press (FP). The SSF has built an ongoing working relationship with FP to explore the potential of agri-fiber paper making in a small farm setting. The expansion of storage and processing facilities at the SSF will help embellish this exciting project with the tools to establish a repeatable protocol for other small farms and artisanal paper making operations.

Fresh Press currently occupies a small wing of our existing washing and packing facility. They use the space to grind and cook left over fibers from the SSF. Unless there is a demonstration, FP will bring the cooked fiber back to their current paper making lab. In addition, the storage shed we currently house on the site is nearly at capacity for our needs at the SSF. There is not additional space to store equipment owned by FP. Additional space is required to store equipment and process these agri-fibers into paper.

The collaboration with FP has been a very unique and progressive collaboration. It has brought together multiple disciplines including Architecture, Graphic Design, and Crop Sciences to work on problems and come up with creative sustainable solutions. One such deliverable was the “Veggie Cup” concept. This was an idea brought about by the SSF collaboration with Jeffery Poss’ Small Studio. It is essentially a paper cup made from recycled agri-fiber on the farm. This cup can then be used to package small vegetable products like snap peas and cherry tomatoes and sold at the farm stand. Usually these items are sold in bulk or in plastic pint containers. The “Veggie Cup” could conceivably be packaging that is made out of a recycled version of the very item it contains. Additionally, any other paper products that a small farm business uses, e.g. promotional posters, gift cards could be made from the paper grown and made on that farm. The Fresh Press collaboration could become a stepping-stone for a large vision of food, fuel, and fiber all being sourced locally and regionally.

I fully support this great collaboration and hope we can receive SSC support for this highly visible project.

Sincerely,

Zachary Grant  
Farm Manager/Coordinator/Educator Sustainable Student Farm